

A B O

Above the brims they force their fiery way;
Black vapours climb aloft, and cloud the day.

Dryden, Æneid vii. l. 643.

2. More in quantity or number.
Every one that passeth among them, that are numbered from twenty years old and *above*, shall give an offering unto the Lord.
Exodus, xxx. 14.
3. Higher in rank, power or excellence.
The Lord is high *above* all nations, and his glory *above* the heavens.
The public power of all societies is *above* every soul contained in the same societies.
There is no riches *above* a found body, and no joy *above* the joy of the heart.
Hooker, b. i. Ecclesiasticus, xxx. 16.

To her

Thou didst resign thy manhood, and the place
Wherein God let thee *above* her, made of thee,
And for thee: whose perfection far excell'd
Her's, in all real dignity. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 147.*
Latona fees her throne *above* the rest,
And feeds with secret joy her silent breast. *Dryden's Æneid.*

4. Superior to; unattainable by.
It is an old and true distinction, that things may be *above* our reason, without being contrary to it. Of this kind are the power, the nature, and the universal presence of God, with innumerable other points.
Swift.
5. Beyond; more than.
We were pressed out of measure, *above* strength; inasmuch that we despaired even of life.
2 Cor. i. 8.

In this, of having thoughts unconfused, and being able, nicely to distinguish one thing from another, where there is but the least difference, consists, in a great measure, the exactness of judgment and clearness of reason, which is to be observed in one man *above* another.
Locke.
The inhabitants of Tirol have many particular privileges *above* those of the other hereditary countries of the emperor.
Addison on Italy.

6. Too proud for; too high for. A phrase chiefly used in familiar expression.
Kings and princes, in the earlier ages of the world, laboured in arts and occupations, and were *above* nothing that tended to promote the conveniences of life.
Pope's Odyssey; notes.

ABOVE, adv.

1. Over-head.
To men standing below, men standing aloft seem much less; to those *above*, men standing below, seem not so much lessened.
Bacon.

When he established the clouds *above*; when he strengthened the fountains of the deep; when he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment; when he appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him.
Proverbs, viii. 28.

2. In the regions of heaven.
Your praise the birds shall chant in every grove,
And winds shall waft it to the powers *above*. *Pope's Pastorals.*
3. Before. [See ABOVE-CITED.]

I said *above*, that these two machines of the balance, and the dira, were only ornamental, and that the success of the duel had been the same without them. *Dryden's Dedication to the Æneid.*

FROM ABOVE.

1. From an higher place.
The Trojans *from above* their foes beheld;
And with arm'd legions all the rampires fill'd. *Dryden's Æneid.*
2. From heaven.
Every good gift, and every perfect gift is *from above*, and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
James, i. 17.

ABOVE ALL. In the first place; chiefly.
I had also studied Virgil's design, his disposition of it, his manners, his judicious management of the figures, the sober retrenchments of his sense, which always leaves somewhat to gratify our imagination, on which it may enlarge at pleasure; but *above all*, the elegance of his expression, and the harmony of his numbers.
Dryden's Dedication to the Æneid.

ABOVE-BOARD. In open sight; without artifice or trick. A figurative expression, borrowed from gamblers, who, when they put their hands under the table, are changing their cards. It is used only in familiar language.
It is the part also of an honest man to deal *above-board*, and without tricks.
Though there have not been wanting such heretofore, as have practised these unworthy arts (for as much as there have been villains in all places, and all ages) yet now-a-days they are owned *above-board*.
South's Sermons.

ABOVE-CITED. Cited before. A figurative expression, taken from the ancient manner of writing books on scrolls; as whatever is cited or mentioned before in the same page, must be *above*.
Nor would I mention this particular, did it not appear from the authority *above-cited*, that this was a fact confessed by hearers themselves.
Addison on the Christian Religion.

A B O

ABOVE-GROUND. An expression used to signify, that a man is alive; not in the grave.

ABOVE-MENTIONED. See ABOVE-CITED.

I do not remember, that Homer any-where falls into the faults *above-mentioned*, which were indeed the false refinements of latter ages.
Addison, Spectator, N° 279.

TO ABOVE-OUND. v. n. [*abundo*, Lat. *abonder*, French.]
1. To have in great plenty; used sometimes with the particle *in*, and sometimes the particle *with*.

The king-becoming graces,

I have no relish of them, but *about*
In the division of each several crime,
Acting it many ways. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Corn, wine, and oil, are wanting to this ground,
In which our countries fruitfully abound. *Dryden's Indian Emp.*
A faithful man shall *abound with* blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich, shall not be innocent. *Prov. xxviii. 20.*

Now that languages are made, and *abound with* words, standing for such combinations, an usual way of getting these complex ideas, is by the explication of those terms that stand for them.
Locke.

2. To be in great plenty.
And because iniquity shall *abound*, the love of many shall wax cold. *Matthew, xxiv. 12.*
Words are like leaves, and where they most *abound*,
Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.
Pope's Essay on Criticism.

ABOUT. prep. [*abutan*, or *aburon*, Sax. which seems to signify encircling on the outside.]
1. Round, surrounding, encircling.
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee. Bind them *about* thy neck; write them upon the table of thy heart. *Proverbs, iii. 3.*

At this the loudly shrieks,

'Tis he, 'tis he, she cries, and tears her cheeks,
Her hair, her veil; and, stooping to the sands,
About his neck the cast her trembling hands. *Dryden's Fables.*

2. Near to.
Speak unto the congregation, saying, get you up from *about* the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.
Exodus.
Thou dost nothing, Sergius,
Thou canst endeavour nothing, nay, not think;
But I both see and hear it; and am with thee,
By and before, *about* and in thee too. *Benj. Johnson's Catiline.*
3. Concerning, with regard to, relating to.
When Constantine had finished an house for the service of God at Jerusalem, the dedication he judged a matter not unworthy; *about* the solemn performance whereof, the greatest part of the bishops in christendom should meet together.
Hooker, b. v. § 12.

The painter is not to take so much pains *about* the drapery as *about* the face, where the principal resemblance lies.
Dryden's Pref. to Disfrenzy.
They are most frequently used as words equivalent, and do both of them indifferently signify either a speculative knowledge of things, or a practical skill *about* them, according to the exigency of the matter or thing spoken of. *Tillot's Sermon i.*
Theft is always a sin, although the particular species of it, and the denomination of particular acts, doth suppose positive laws *about* dominion and property.
Stillington's Defence of Discourses on Romish Idolatry.

They should always be heard, and fairly and kindly answered, when they ask after any thing they would know, and desire to be informed *about*. Curiosity should be as carefully cherished in children, as other appetites suppressed.
Locke on Education, § 108.
It hath been practised as a method of making men's court, when they are asked *about* the rate of lands, the abilities of tenants, the state of trade and manufacture, to answer, that, in their neighbourhood, all things are in a flourishing condition.
Swift's short View of Ireland.

4. Engaged in, employed upon.
Our blessed Lord was pleased to command the representation of his death and sacrifice on the cross, should be made by breaking of bread and effusion of wine; to signify to us the nature and sacredness of the liturgy we are *about*.
Taylor's Worshy Communicant.

Labour, for labour's sake, is against nature. The understanding, as well as all the other faculties, chooses always the shortest way to its end, would presently obtain the knowledge it is *about*, and then set upon some new enquiry. But this, whether laziness or haste, often misleads it.
Locke.
They ought, however, to be provided with secretaries, and assisted by our foreign ministers, to tell their story for them in plain English, and to let us know, in our mother-tongue, what it is our brave countrymen are *about*. *Addison, Spectator, N° 309.*

5. Appendanted to the person; as, cloaths, &c.
If you have this *about* you,
As I will give you when we go, you may
Boldly assault the necromancer's hall.
Milton's Comus.
It is not strange to me, that persons of the fairer sex should like, in all things *about* them, that handiwork for which they find themselves most liked.
Boyle on Colours.

6. Relating

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6. Relating to the person, as a servant.
Liking very well the young gentleman, such I took him to be, admitted this Deiphantus *about* me, who well shewed, there is no service like his that serves because he loves. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Good master, corporal, captain, for my old dame's sake, stand my friend: she hath no body to do any thing about her when I am gone, and she is old and cannot help herself.
Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.

ABOUT, adv.

1. Circularly.
The weyward sisters, hand in hand,
Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go *about*, about,
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,
And thrice again to make up nine. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
2. In circuit.
My honest lads, I'll tell you what I am *about*.—Two yards and more.—No quips now, Pistol: indeed I am in the waste two yards *about*; but I am about no waste, I am about thrift.
Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.

A tun *about* was ev'ry pillar there,

3. Nearly.
When the boats were come within *about* sixty yards of the pillar, they found themselves all bound, and could go no farther; yet so as they might move to go about, but might not approach nearer.
Bacon's New Atlantis.
4. Here and there; every way.
Up rose the gentle virgin from her place,
And looked all *about*, if she might spy
Her lovely knight to move his manly pace.
Fairy Queen, b. i. cant. ii. stanza. 33.

A wolf that was past labour, had the wit in his old age, yet to make the best of a bad game; he borrows a habit, and so *about* he goes, begging charity from door to door, under the disguise of a pilgrim.
L'Estrange.

5. With *to* before a verb; as, *about to fly*; upon the point, within a small distance of.
These dying lovers, and their floating fons,
Suspend the fight, and silence all our guns:
Beauty and youth, *about* to perish, finds
Such noble pity in brave English minds. *Waller.*
6. The longest way, in opposition to the short straight way.
Gold hath three natures; greatness of weight; closeness of parts; fixation; plantiness, or softness; immunity from rust; colour, or tincture of yellow: Therefore the sure way (though most *about*) to make gold, is to know the causes of the several natures before rehearsed.
Bacon's Natural Hist. N° 328.

Spies of the Volcicians

Held me in chase, that I was forc'd to wheel
Three or four miles *about*; else had I, Sir,
Half an hour since brought my report. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

7. To bring about; to bring to the point or state desired; as, *he has brought about his purposes*.
Whether this will be brought *about*, by breaking his head, I very much question. *Spectator.*
8. To come about; to come to some certain state or point.
Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come *about*, after Hannah had conceived, that the bare a son. *1 Sam. i. 20.*

One evening it befel, that looking out,

The wind they long had wish'd was come *about*;
Well pleas'd they went to rest; and if the gale
'Till morn continu'd, both resolv'd to fail. *Dryden's Fables.*

9. To go about a thing; to prepare to do it.
Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye *about* to kill me? *John vii. 19.*
In common language, they say, to come *about* a man, to circumvent him.
Some of these phrases seem to derive their original from the French *a bout*; *venir a bout d'une chose*; *venir a bout de quelqu'un*.

A. Bp. for Archbishop; which see.
ABRACADABRA. A superstitious charm against agues.
TO ABRADÉ. v. a. [*Lat. abrado*.] To rub off; to wear away from the other parts; to waste by degrees.

- By this means there may be a continued supply of what is successively *abraded* from them by decursion of waters.
Hale's Origin of Mankind.

ABRAHAM'S BALM. The name of an herb.
ABRA'ION. [See ABRADÉ.]
1. The act of abrading; a rubbing off.

2. [In medicine.] The wearing away of the natural mucus, which covers the membranes, particularly those of the stomach and guts, by corrosive or sharp medicines, or humours. *Quincy.*
3. The matter worn off by the attrition of bodies.

ABREAST, adv. [See BREAST.] Side by side; in such a position that the breaths may bear against the same line.
My cousin Suffolk,
My soul shall thine keep company to heav'n:
Tarry, sweet soul, for mine, then fly *abreast*. *Shak. Henry V.*
For honour travels in a freight so narrow,
Where one but goes *abreast*. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*

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The riders rode *abreast*, and one his shield,
His lance of cornel-wood another held;
The third his bow, and, glorious to behold!
The costly quiver, all of burnish'd gold. *Dryden's Fables.*

ABRACOT. See APRICOT.

TO ABRIDGE. v. a. [*abreger*, Fr. *abreger*, Lat.]
1. To make shorter in words, keeping still the same substance.
All these sayings, being declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will essay to *abridge* in one volume. *2 Mac. ii. 23.*

2. To contract, to diminish, to cut short.
The determination of the will, upon enquiry, is following the direction of that guide; and he, that has a power to act or not to act, according as such determination directs, is free. Such determination *abridges* not that power wherein liberty consists. *Locke.*
3. To deprive of; in which sense it is followed by the particle *from*, or *of*, preceding the thing taken away.
I have disabled mine estate,
By shewing something a more swelling port,
Than my faint means would grant continuance;
Nor do I now make mean to be *abridg'd*
From such a noble rate. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*

They were formerly, by the common law, discharged from pontage and murage; but this privilege has been *abridged* them since by several statutes.
Ayliffe's Pervogen Juris Canonici.

ABRIDGED OF. part. Deprived of, debarr'd from, cut short.
AN ABRIDGER.

1. He that abridges; a shortener.
2. A writer of compendiums or abridgments.

ABRIDGMENT. n. s. [*abregement*, French.]
1. The contraction of a larger work into a small compass.
Surely this commandment containeth the law and the prophets; and, in this one word, is the *abridgment* of all volumes of scripture. *Hooker, b. ii. § 5.*

Myself have play'd

The int'rim, by remembering you 'tis past;
Then brook *abridgment*, and your eyes advance
After your thoughts, straight back again to France?
Shakespeare's Henry V.

Idolatry is certainly the first-born of folly, the great and leading paradox; nay, the very *abridgment* and sum total of all absurdities. *South's Sermons.*

2. A diminution in general.
All trying, by a love of littleness,
To make *abridgments*, and to draw to less,
Even that nothing, which at first we were. *Donne.*

3. Restraint, or abridgment of liberty.
The constant desire of happiness, and the constraint it puts upon us, no body, I think, accounts an *abridgment* of liberty, or at least an *abridgment* of liberty, to be complained of. *Locke.*

ABROACH, adv. [See TO BROACH.]

1. In a posture to run out; to yield the liquor contained; properly spoken of vessels.
The Templer spruce, while ev'ry spout's *abroach*,
Stays 'till 'tis fair, yet seems to call a coach. *Swift's Miscel.*

The jars of generous wine, (Acestes' gift,
When his Trinacrian shores the navy left)
He set *abroach*, and for the feast prepar'd,
In equal portions with the ven'ous shar'd.
Dryden's Virgil's Æneid, vol. ii.

2. In a figurative sense; in a state to be diffused or advanced; in a state of such beginning as promises a progress.
That man, that fits within a monarch's heart,
And ripens in the sunshine of his favour,
Would he abuse the count'nance of the king,
Alack! what mischiefs might be set *abroach*,
In shadow of such greatness? *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.*

ABROAD, adv. [compounded of *a* and *broad*. See BROAD.]
1. Without confinement; widely; at large.
Intermit no watch
Against a wakeful foe, while I *abroad*,
Thro' all the coasts of dark destruction seek
Deliverance. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii. l. 463.*

Again, the lonely fox roams far *abroad*.
On secret rapine bent, and midnight fraud;
Now haunts the cliff, now traverses the lawn,
And flies the hated neighbourhood of man. *Prior.*

2. Out of the house.
Welcome, Sir,
This cell's my court; here have I few attendants,
And subjects none *abroad*. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*

Lady ——— walked a whole hour *abroad*, without dying after it; at least in the time I staid; though she seem'd to be fainting, and had convulsive motions several times in her head.
Pope's Letters.

3. In another country.
They thought it better to be somewhat hardly yoked at home, than for ever *abroad*, and discredited. *Hooker, Pref.*
Whoever offers at verbal translation, shall have the misfortune of that young traveller, who lost his own language *abroad*, and brought home no other instead of it. *Sir J. Denham.*

D

What